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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/608,607	06/27/2003	Edwin Bolduan	ZTP01P12033	2244

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EXAMINER

RINEHART, KENNETH

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3749

DATE MAILED: 06/23/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/608,607

Applicant(s)

BOLDUAN ET AL.

Examiner

Kenneth B Rinehart

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 5/6/2004
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 and 22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 19 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18, 20 and 22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 May 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Regarding the applicant's changes to the drawings, the examiner does not see how the revisions show the **supporting** feature claimed. It is also not readily apparent how the drawings were revised.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, supporting the clothing item with an air permeable supporting surface, supporting the clothing item by a gas jet must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1 and 20 refer to "in a direction not parallel to " which is a negative limitation which renders the claim indefinite.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Jannach.

Jannach shows providing an item of clothing (abstract), providing at least one gas nozzle for supplying a jet of a gas and impacting the jet of gas on at least one portion the clothing item in a direction not parallel to the at least one portion of the clothing item for dehumidifying the at least one portion of the clothing item (col. 1, lines 30-32, fig. 1), supporting the clothing item from a side of the clothing item opposite the at least one gas nozzle (fig. 1), supporting the clothing item with a supporting surface (hanger, fig. 1), supporting the clothing item with an air permeable supporting surface (hanger is air permeable, fig. 1), impacting the jet of gas on at least one portion of the clothing item at an angle different from zero to the at least one portion or the clothing item for dehumidifying the at least one portion of the clothing item (col. 1, lines 30-32, fig. 1).

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fujita. Fujita shows providing an item of clothing (fig. 6), providing at least one gas nozzle for supplying a jet of a gas (fig. 6), impacting the jet of gas on at least one portion the clothing item in a direction not parallel to the at least one portion of the clothing item for dehumidifying the at least one portion of the clothing item (fig. 8a, fig. 8b) supporting the clothing item from a side of the clothing item opposite the at least one gas nozzle (fig. 6), supporting the clothing item with a

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supporting surface (112, fig. 6), supporting the clothing item with an air permeable supporting surface (fig. 6), disposing the item between two air permeable surfaces (fig. 10), supporting the clothing item by a jet of gas (fig. 6), exerting jets of gas from gas nozzles on both sides of the clothing item in a direction of each other having a total force on the clothing item equal in magnitude (fig. 6), providing at least two gas nozzles disposed on opposite sides of the clothing item and facing one another; and directing jets of gas on both sides of the clothing item with a total force on the clothing item being equal in magnitude (fig. 6), exerting jets of gas from gas nozzles on both sides of the clothing item in a direction of each other on sections of the clothing items in a direction of each other on sections of the clothing item with one of the gas nozzles having a higher force than another one of the gas nozzles (fig. 10), exerting jets of gas from gas nozzles on both sides of the clothing item in a direction of each other on sections of the clothing item with the gas nozzles having substantially the same force on both sides (fig. 6),

Claims 1-3, 12, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dahman. Dahman shows providing an item of clothing (24, fig. 2), providing at least one gas nozzle for supplying a jet of a gas and impacting the jet of gas on at least one portion the clothing item in a direction not parallel to the at least one portion of the clothing item for dehumidifying the at least one portion of the clothing item (fig. 2), drying the clothing item at least in one portion thereof with the gas stream in a direction not parallel to the one portion (fig. 2), supporting the clothing item from a side of the clothing item opposite the at least one gas nozzle (46, fig. 2), supporting the clothing item with a supporting surface (fig. 4), providing the at least one gas nozzle with heated gas (16, fig. 2), the jet of gas contains heated gas (16, fig. 2).

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Claims 1-3, 12, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Georges. Georges shows providing an item of clothing (12, fig. 1), providing at least one gas nozzle for supplying a jet of a gas and impacting the jet of gas on at least one portion the clothing item in a direction not parallel to the at least one portion of the clothing item for dehumidifying the at least one portion of the clothing item (33, 32, fig. 4), drying the clothing item at least in one portion thereof with the gas stream in a direction not parallel to the one portion (fig. 4), supporting the clothing item from a side of the clothing item opposite the at least one gas nozzle (6, fig. 2), supporting the clothing item with a supporting surface (6, fig. 2), providing the at least one gas nozzle with heated gas (4, fig. 1), the jet of gas contains heated gas (4, fig. 1).

Claim 20 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Muller. Muller shows a housing defining a treatment space (10, fig. 1), devices disposed in said housing for disposing items of clothing within said treatment space (14, perforations, fig. 1), a blower disposed at said housing for producing a gas flow (27, fig. 1) and nozzles disposed in said housing and communicating with said blower (31, fig. 1), said nozzles being aligned to impact a jet of gas of the gas flow produced by said blower on at least one portion of an item of clothing in said treatment space in a direction not parallel to the at least one portion of the clothing item for dehumidifying the at least one portion of the clothing item (fig. 1), said nozzles direct the gas flow at an angle different from zero with respect to the at least one portion of the clothing item (fig. 1).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Georges in view of Kellerhals. Georges discloses providing an item of clothing (12, fig. 1), providing at least one gas nozzle for supplying a jet of a gas and impacting the jet of gas on at least one portion the clothing item in a direction not parallel to the at least one portion of the clothing item for dehumidifying the at least one portion of the clothing item (33, 32, fig. 4). Georges discloses applicant's invention substantially as claimed with the exception of providing the at least one gas nozzle with water vapor, the jet of gas contains water vapor. Kellerhals teaches providing the at least one gas nozzle with water vapor, the jet of gas contains water vapor (19, fig. 1) for the purpose of smoothing the articles. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Georges by including providing the at least one gas nozzle with water vapor, the jet of gas contains water vapor as taught by Kellerhals for the purpose of smoothing the articles and preventing wrinkles.

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Georges in view of Baltes. Georges discloses providing providing an item of clothing (12, fig. 1), providing at least one gas nozzle for supplying a jet of a gas and impacting the jet of gas on at least one portion the clothing item in a direction not parallel to the at least one portion of the clothing item for dehumidifying the at least one portion of the clothing item (33, 32, fig. 4). Georges discloses

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applicant's invention substantially as claimed with the exception of varying at least one of an outflow speed, a volume flow, and a directional distribution of the at least one jet of gas while drying the clothing item. Baltes teaches varying at least one of an outflow speed, a volume flow, and a directional distribution of the at least one jet of gas while drying the clothing item (col. 5, lines 59-66) for the purpose of providing a more efficient and flexible system. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Georges by including varying at least one of an outflow speed, a volume flow, and a directional distribution of the at least one jet of gas while drying the clothing item as taught by Baltes for the purpose of providing a more efficient and flexible system to reduce electrical usage and operating costs.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 19 is allowed.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

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however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kenneth B Rinehart whose telephone number is 703-308-1722. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 -4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ira Lazarus can be reached on 703-308-1935. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

KBR


KENNETH RINEHART
PRIMARY EXAMINER